

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A construction for guiding and supporting a cable a- through a controlled bending deformation, comprising:

a rail having at least one substantially linear rail-the section;

a slider having an engaging portion mounted to the rail for sliding substantially linearly along the rail, and a cable support offset from the rail, the cable support having a slider passage extending therethrough; and

a cable guide formed to undergo a bending deformation about a plurality of parallel axes and only in a specified plane, the cable guide having a first end coupled to the slider and a second end spaced from the rail, the cable guide having a guide passage extending therethrough, portions of the guide passage communicating with the slider passage at the first end of the cable guide;

a fixing portion coupled to the second end of the cable guide and spaced from the rail, the fixing portion having a fixing passage extending therethrough and communicating with the guide passage;

a cable extending through the fixing passage of the fixing portion, through the guide passage of the cable guide and through the slider passage of the slider, the cable having a spanning-portion part with a door-side end fixed to the slider and a body-side end disposed externally of the slider; and

a fixing member supporting the body-side end of the spanning part of the cable so that the spanning part of the cable has a substantially fixed length between the fixing member and the slider and is pivotal relative to the fixing part and the slider about

axes that are parallel to the plane of the cable guide, whereby the slider, the cable guide and the fixing portion guide the cable introduced through the passages therein through the controlled bending deformation between the slider and the fixing portion.

2. (previously presented) The construction of claim 1, wherein the cable guide comprises a plurality of substantially tubular links coupled to undergo the bending deformation substantially in the specified plane.

3. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 1, wherein the cable guide (27) comprises a corrugate tube (84) configured such that a bending direction is restricted to a specified direction to undergo a bending deformation substantially in the specified plane.

4. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 3, wherein the corrugate tube (84) has a plurality of annular small-diameter portions (80) and a plurality of annular large-diameter portions (82) alternately and substantially continuously provided, and substantially flat couplings (86) for coupling adjacent annular large-diameter portions (82) substantially flush with each other.

5. (previously presented) The construction of claim 1, wherein a rail-side engaging portion is provided on a surface of the rail, the rail-side engaging portion being slidably engageable with a slider-side engaging portion of the slider.

6. (currently amended) The construction of claim 1, wherein the cable guide is coupled to the slider such that a slider-side opening thereof faces transversely of a sliding direction of the slider along the rail; and a stretching the spanning part is supported by the slider near the slider-side opening of the cable guide.

7. (currently amended) The construction of claim 1, wherein all of the rail is substantially linear.

8. (previously presented) The construction of claim 1, wherein the rail has a section curved with respect to a longitudinal direction of the rail.

9. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 1, wherein the rail (23) is twisted about a longitudinal axis at least in one section thereof with respect to a longitudinal direction of the rail (23).

10. (previously presented) The construction of claim 1, wherein: the rail and the slider are provided respectively with a rail-side engaging portion and a slider-side engaging portion engageable with each other to slidably hold the slider.

11. (previously presented) The construction of claim 10, wherein the slider-side engaging portion has engaging grooves in upper and lower surfaces thereof, and the rail-side engaging portion has engaging projections fit in the engaging grooves of the slider-side engaging portion from above and from below and extending along a longitudinal direction of the rail.

12. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 10, wherein the rail-side engaging portion (51) has engaging grooves (59) in the upper and lower surfaces thereof along a longitudinal direction of the rail (23), and the slider-side engaging portion (53) has engaging projections (61) fit in the respective engaging grooves (59) of the rail-side engaging portion (51) from above and from below.

13. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 10, wherein the rail-side engaging portion (51) has a fit-in portion (69) extending substantially along the

longitudinal direction of the rail (23), and the slider-side engaging portion (53) has a holding groove (71) into which the fit-in portion (69) is fit and held so as not to come off.

14. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 10, wherein the slider-side engaging portion (53) has a fit-in portion (73), and the rail-side engaging portion (51) has a holding groove (75) into which the fit-in portion (73) is fit and held so as not to come off and which extends substantially along a longitudinal direction of the rail (23).

15. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 14, wherein at least one roller (63) is provided at a portion of the slider-side engaging portion (53) held substantially in sliding contact with the rail-side engaging portion (51).

16. (withdrawn) A construction for arranging and supporting a cable (29) of a slide door (21), comprising:

a slider (25) to be mounted on a rail (23) laid on the slide door (21) for sliding along the rail (23) and adapted to support a door-side end of a stretching part (31) of the cable (29) transferred from a vehicle body (28) toward the slide door (21);
and

a corrugate tube (84) having a first end coupled to the slider (25) and a second end coupled to a fixing portion (35) for fixed coupling to the slide door (21), and adapted to guide the cable (29) introduced therein in a section between the slider (25) and the fixing portion (35), the corrugate tube (84) having a plurality of longitudinally spaced rings (82), each said ring (82) defining a selected large diameter, a diametrically opposed pair of arc sections (80) extending between longitudinally adjacent rings (82) and defining a selected small diameter less than the large diameter, and diametrically

opposed pairs couplings (86) defining the large diameter, each said diametrically opposed pair of couplings (86) coupling longitudinally adjacent rings (82) and coupling the diametrically opposed arc sections (80) in each said pair, such that the corrugate tube (84) can undergo a bending deformation only in a plane substantially centrally between the couplings (86).

17. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 16, wherein the corrugate tube (84) is formed unitarily from resin.

18. (withdrawn) The construction of claim 17, wherein the couplings (86) in each said pair are aligned longitudinally with the couplings (86) in the other pairs.